PATENT APPLICATION

TITLE: TRAVELING BAG PROTECTOR

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SPECIFICATION

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to luggage utilized to travel long distances. More particularly the present invention relates to protective coverings for luggage utilized to travel long distances. In the prior art there are several types of luggage utilized for travel, for example, U.S. Pat. No. 6,431,580 B1 to Kady, shows an improvement on prior art for a collapsible wheeled caddy. The wheeled caddy, having multiple purposes, has a front and back panel, vertically hinged side panels, a hinged bottom panel and retractable handles within the back panel, U.S. Pat. No. 6,109,627 to Be, shows a bowling bag carrier, carrying two or three bags loaded with a plurality of bowling balls and allowing a user to easily receive or remove bowling balls into or from the bags. The wheeled bag may lie on its side or stand on its bottom. U.S. Pat. No. 5,074,571 to Reese, shows an apparatus for transporting, storing and carrying a plurality of bowling balls, bowling accessories and equipment, includes a housing having vertically stacked interior compartments for storing bowling balls and U.S. Pat. No 5,431,428 to Marchwiak, et al. shows a carrying case assembly is provided with a case defining an enclosed interior, and a collapsible handle assembly disposed within the case. The handle assembly includes a push button which allows the handle to collapse within the case. Wheels are provided on the outside of the case so that, in conjunctions with the extended handle, the case may be transported as if it were a wheeled cart.

What is needed is a covering to protect a passenger's luggage while traveling on public transportation such as airplanes, buses, and trains.

SUMMARY

The present invention provides a protective covering for a traveling bag. The protective covering further comprises a housing having an upper, lower, front, back, a first side and opposite second side sections. Each section can be a panel. The shape of the protective covering is equivalent to the shape of the traveling bag and the housing has a cavity dimensioned to encompass the traveling bag. The protective covering further includes a slot within the upper panel that is aligned over the handle of the traveling bag and is dimensioned to accommodate the handle of the traveling bag in a telescoped position.

The present invention further comprises an inner layer cushioning means abutting and is securely attached to and spans the interior wall of the front panel. The present invention has a releasable fastening means strategically placed on a selected panel for easy insertion and removal of the travel bag into the cavity of the housing of the protective covering. In some embodiments the releasable fastening means can be affixed to the peripheral edges of upper panel or the back panel. In other embodiments the releasable fastening means can be vertically disposed or horizontally disposed across the back panel. The bottom panel can have at least one opening to accommodate the wheels and/or stand of the travel bag.

Various embodiments of the bottom panel of the present invention for supporting various bottom types of traveling bags are disclosed. In some embodiments the bottom panel has a single rectangular opening and in other

embodiments the bottom panel has a single elongated opening having an oval opening aligned above or below an integrated rectangular shaped opening.

DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a side perspective view of the present invention, a protective covering for a traveling bag.

FIG. 2 is a top plan internal view of the present invention.

FIG. 3 illustrates a rear view of the bottom panel of the protective covering.

FIG. 4 is a rear view of the bottom panel of the protective covering illustrating an alternative embodiment.

FIG. 5 is a rear view of the bottom panel of the protective covering illustrating an alternative embodiment.

FIG. 6 is a rear view of the bottom panel of the protective covering illustrating an alternative embodiment.

FIG. 7 is a rear view of the bottom panel of the protective covering illustrating an alternative embodiment.

FIG. 8 illustrates a side view of the inlet means for the present invention along the side panel.

FIG. 9 is a side view of the inlet means for the present invention along the side panel in an opened position.

FIG. 10 illustrates a side view of the inlet means along an edge of the bottom panel.

FIG. 11 illustrates a side view of the inlet means vertically disposed at an intermediate point on the back panel.

FIG. 12 illustrates the inlet means in an opened position.

FIG. 13 illustrates a side view of the inlet means horizontally disposed upon the back panel.

FIG. 14 illustrates the inlet means in an opened position.

FIG. 15 illustrates a top view of the inlet means disposed along the edges of the upper panel in an open position of upper panel with releasable means.

FIG. 16 illustrates a top view of the inlet means disposed along the edges of the upper panel in a closed position of upper panel with releasable means.

FIG. 17 illustrates a top view of the inlet means disposed horizontally across each side panel.

FIG. 18 is a top view of the inlet means along the upper edges of the back panel.

FIG. 19 is a top view of the inlet means along the upper edges of the back panel in an opened position.

FIG. 20 illustrates a side view of the present invention having inlet means incorporated into a second upper panel overlying the second upper panel.

FIG. 21 illustrates a side view of the present invention having inlet means incorporated into a second upper panel overlying the first upper panel in an opened position.

FIG. 22 and 23 illustrates an alternative embodiment of the present invention having the inlet means incorporated into upper panels of the housing.

DETAILED SPECIFICATION

Referring to FIG. 1, there is shown a perspective view of the present invention, a protective covering (100) for a traveling bag (500). The protective covering (100) for the traveling bag (500) includes a housing (110) defined by an upper section (115), a bottom section(117), a front section(120), a back section(125), a first side section(130), and an opposite side section(135).

In the illustrated embodiment, housing (110) has a cavity dimensioned to encompass the covered traveling bag (500). Each section of the housing (110) has substantially an equivalent shape to each section of the traveling bag (500). In this kind of embodiment, each section of the housing (110) has a panel with a polygonal shape.

Protective covering (100) further includes slot (145) within the upper panel (115) aligned over the handle of the traveling bag and dimensioned to accommodate the handle of covered traveling bag (500) in a telescoped position as shown in FIG 1. The protective covering (100) can be made of strong synthetic polyester or another suitable material in which luggage is made of. Additionally, the bottom panel (117) can be made of a sturdy rigid material such as plastic or another suitable material.

Referring to FIG. 2, there is shown a top plan view of the present invention. In the illustrated embodiment, the present invention further includes at least one opening within the bottom panel (117) to accommodate the wheels and/or the stand of the covered traveling bag (500). As illustrated in this particular

embodiment, the bottom panel (117) has two openings. First opening (150) is dimensioned to accommodate the stand of the covered bag. Second opening (155) is dimensioned to accommodate the wheels of the covered bag.

The illustrated embodiment further comprises an inner layer cushioning means (122) abutting and securely attached to the interior wall of the front panel (120). Additionally, the inner layer cushioning means (122) spans the interior wall of the front panel (120). Cushioning means (122) can be made of Styrofoam, sponge, or another suitable means. In alternative embodiments, cushioning means (122) can partially spans the interior wall of front panel (120). An inlet means (170) provides access for insertion and removal of the traveling bag into the cavity of the housing (110).

As shown in FIG. 1, the illustrated embodiment further includes at least one handle means (175) securely attached to the exterior of the first side panel (130) of protective covering (100). Handle means (175) is aligned parallel to the slot (145) in the upper panel (115). Additionally, handle means (175) can attach to the exterior of the opposite second side panel (135), the front panel (120), the back panel (125) or the upper panel (115). In alternative embodiments, a second handle means (175) can be attached to the opposite second side panel (135) or any of the additional panels of the protective covering (100).

Referring to FIG.'S 3 –7, there is shown various alternative embodiments of the bottom panel (117) of the present invention for supporting various types of traveling bags. Referring to FIG. 3, there is shown a rear view of the bottom

panel (117) having a single rectangular opening centered in bottom panel (117). Referring to FIG. 4, there is shown a rear view of the bottom panel (117) having a single elongated opening (150) centered in bottom panel (117). Elongated opening (150) comprises an oval opening aligned above and integrated into a rectangular shape opening. Referring to FIG. 5, there is shown a rear view of the bottom panel (117) having a single elongated rectangular opening centered in bottom panel (117). Referring to FIG. 6, there is shown a rear view of the bottom panel (117) having a single elongated opening (150) centered in bottom panel (117). Elongated opening (150) comprises an oval opening aligned below and integrated into a rectangular shape opening. Referring to FIG. 7, there is shown a rear view of the bottom panel (117) having two small circular openings (150, 155) spaced at opposite ends of the bottom panel (117).

Referring to FIG. 's 8-23, there is shown alternative embodiments for the inlet means (170) of the present invention. Inlet means (170) in the present invention can be implemented utilizing zippers or other such compatible releasable fastening means.

Referring to FIG. 8, there is shown one embodiment of how inlet means (170) is attached to the present invention. In the illustrated embodiment, first side panel (130) has a hexagonal shape. Additionally, the opposite second side panel (135) is also hexagonal as shown in FIG. 9. However, the upper panel (115), bottom panel (117), and back panel (125) each has a rectangular shape. Side panel (130) and opposite second side panel (135) further include an upper

edge (220), a lower edge (320), a first side edge (230) and an adjoined opposite second side edge (330). Releasable fastening means (170) is affixed to the upper edge (215), the lower edge (217) and the first side edge (230). As shown in FIG. 9, while in an opened position side panel (130) can pivot backward and forward along the second opposite side edge (330) allowing the covered bag to be inserted into the housing cavity of protective covering (100).

Referring to FIG. 10, releasable fastening means (170) is affixed onto an edge of the back panel (125). In this kind of embodiment, back panel (125) further includes an adjoined upper edge (220), a releasable attached lower edge (320), a detachable first side edge (230) and a detachable opposite second side edge (330). Releasable fastening means (170) is affixed to the lower edge (320) and can be a zipper means or another such compatible means First side edge (230) and opposite side edge (330) can be equipped with attachable and detachable means such as Velcro. As shown in FIG. 10, while in an opened position back panel (125) pivots upward along the upper edge (220) allowing access into the housing cavity of protective covering (100).

Referring to FIG. 11 and 12, releasable fastening means (170) is affixed vertically (170) across the back panel (125) at an intermediate location dividing the back panel (125) into a left section (129) and a right section (131). The back panel (125) is further defined by an adjoined left edge (229) and an adjoined right edge (231), a detached upper edge (215) and a detached lower edge (217). As shown in FIG. 12, in an opened position the left section (129) is pivoted outward along the left edge (229) and the right section (131) is pivoted outward along the right edge (231), whereby the covered bag can be inserted

into and removed from the protective covering. In alternative embodiment, the upper edge (215) and the lower edge can be equipped with attachable and detachable means such as Velcro.

Referring to FIG. 13 and 14, releasable fastening means (170) is affixed horizontally across the back panel (125) at an intermediate location dividing the back panel (125) into an upper section (127) and a lower section (126). The back panel (125) is further defined by an adjoined upper edge (227) and an adjoined lower edge (226), a detached side edge (270), and a detached opposite side edge (271). In the illustrated embodiment shown in FIG. 14, while in an opened position (135), the upper section (127) is pivoted upward along the upper edge (227) and the lower section (126) is pivoted downward along the lower edge (226) allowing the covered bag to be inserted into and removed from the housing cavity of the protective covering (100). In alternative embodiments, protective covering (100), side edge (271) and opposite side edge (270) can be equipped with attachable and detachable means such as Velcro.

Referring to FIG.'s 15 and 16, releasable fastening means (170) is affixed to the peripheral edges of upper panel (115). Upper panel (115) further includes an adjoined lower edge (317), a detached upper edge (315), a detached first side edge (230), and a detached opposite second side edge (330). Releasable fastening means (170) is affixed along the upper edge (315), the first side edge (230) and the opposite second side edge (330). As shown in FIG. 15, while in an opened position (135) the upper panel (115) would pivot forward and backward upon the lower edge (317).

Referring to FIG. 17, releasable fastening means (170) is affixed horizontally (170) across each side panel (130, 135) at an intermediate location dividing each side panel (130,135) into an upper section (127) and a lower

section (126). Each side panel (130,135) is further defined by an adjoined upper edge (215), an adjoined lower edge (217), a detached side edge (330) and a detached opposite side edge (331). As shown in FIG. 17, while in an opened position, the upper section (127) pivots upward along the lower edge (217) and the lower section (126) pivots downward along the lower edge (218) allowing the traveling bag to be inserted into and removed from the housing cavity of the protective covering (100). In alternative embodiments, the upper edge (215) and the lower edge (217) can be equipped with attachable and detachable means such as Velcro.

Referring to FIG.'s 18 and 19, releasable fastening means (170) is affixed to the peripheral edges of the back panel (125). Back panel (125) is further defined by an upper edge (220), an adjoined lower edge (221), a first side edge (320) and an opposite second side edge (321). In this embodiment, releasable fastening means (170) is affixed to the upper edge (221), the first side edge (320) and the opposite second side edge (321). As shown in FIG. 19, while in an opened position the back panel (125) can pivot upward and downward along the lower edge (221) such that the traveling bag can be inserted into and removed from the housing cavity of the protective covering (100).

Referring to FIG.'s 20 and 21, there is shown an alternative embodiment of the present invention of a protective covering for a traveling bag. In the illustrated embodiment, protective covering (100) includes a housing further defined by an upper panel (115), a lower panel (117), a front panel (120), a back panel (125), a first side panel (130), and an opposite second side panel (135). Back panel (125) is further defined by an adjoined lower edge (230), a detached first side edge (231), a detached second side edge (232), and an upper edge (233). Adjoined to upper edge (233) is a second upper panel (116). Each slot (145, 146) is dimensioned to accommodate the perimeter of the upper opening (115). As shown in FIG. 21, each upper panel (115, 116) has a slot (145, 146) which is situated within the upper panel to align over the handle of the covered traveling bag. Each slot (145, 146) is dimensioned to accommodate

the handle of the traveling bag in a telescoped position when the handle is extending upward. When in a closed position, the second upper panel (116) overlays the first upper panel (115) with slot (146) overlying slot (145). The second upper panel (116) is releasably connected to the side edge (200) of first upper panel (115) using zipper means or another such compatible means. As in the illustrated embodiment, at least one opening within the lower panel (117) is made to accommodate the wheels and/or the stand of the covered traveling bag.